

**Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management
Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2014
Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont, Alhambra, CA**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Massood Eftekhari, (Los Angeles County Flood Control District), Chair
Leighanne Kirk for Rich Nagel (West Basin MWD), Chair, South Bay Sub-region
Rob Beste (City of Torrance), Vice-Chair, South Bay Sub-region
Randal Orton (Las Virgenes MWD), Chair, NSMB Sub-region
Barbara Cameron, (City of Malibu), Vice Chair, NSMB Sub-region
Nancy Steele (Council for Watershed Health), Vice-Chair, Upper Los Angeles River
Sub-region
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster) Chair, Upper San Gabriel River
Sub-region
Randy Schoellerman (Water Quality Authority) Vice-Chair, Upper San Gabriel River
Sub-region
Mark Stanley (Rivers and Mountains Conservancy), Vice-Chair, Lower San Gabriel &
Los Angeles Rivers Sub-region
Grace Chan (Metropolitan Water District), Water Supply WMA
Shahram Kharaghani (City of LA), Stormwater WMA
Sharon Green (County Sanitation Districts), Sanitation WMA
Shelly Luce (SMBRC), Open Space WMA
Tony Zampielo (Raymond Basin), Groundwater WMA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alva, Paul (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)
Antos, Mike (Council for Watershed Health)
Biddle, Tara (Covina Irrigating Co.)
Bryden, Russ (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Caldwell, E.J. (West Basin MWD)
Darensbourg, Charles (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Dougall, Jan (Las Virgenes MWD)
Fowler, Virginia (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Grant, Terri (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Hierling, Tammy (Central Basin MWD)
Hildebrand, Gary (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Huerta, Enrique (DAC Outreach Coordinator)
Kast, Grace (Gateway JPA)
Kennedy, Maria Elena (Kennedy Communications – DAC Coordinator)
Lilley, Keith (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Paras, Rochelle (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

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Passanisi, Mercedes (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Sulzer, Dan (USACE)
Tam, Wing (City of Los Angeles)
Trejo, Raymundo (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)
Vergara, Marybeth (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Villegas, Rafael (DWP)
Wang, Guangyu (SMBRC)
Weeks, Jason (WRD)
Zauner, Mary (County Sanitation Districts)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

Motion to approve the December 11, 2013 meeting summary passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

On behalf of the Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA), Grace Kast asked the group why it took so long for comments on the IRWM Plan Update to be responded to and why the comments submitted by Gateway members on the draft IRWM Plan Update were ignored. The GWMA feels that GLAC Region's draft IRWM Plan erroneously indicates inclusion of GWMA members in the process. Grace emphasized that it was the choice of the GWMA members not to participate in the GLAC's planning effort and this should be reflected on the GLAC Region's IRWM Plan Update. In addition, Grace also inquired about issues the GLAC Region may be having regarding DWR's changing requirements and how the Region is addressing these issues.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRS' AND WMA REPORTS

North Santa Monica Bay – Barbara Cameron reported that this steering committee had discussions on projects that related to the drought crisis, current legislature and grant activities. A subcommittee was also formed to meet with local water providers to identify opportunities within this subregion.

Upper San Gabriel River – This steering committee discussed updates on the Prop 84 Rounds 1 and 2 funding status and issues with the reimbursement process. They also discussed preparations for upcoming Round 3 solicitation.

The other three subregions did not meet this month.

Open Space – Shelly Luce provided her insights from participating in Water Bond meetings and recommended future discussion on small city/non-profit engagement and inclusion on grant applications.

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Sanitation – Sharon Green reported that a policy change to the State Revolving Loan Fund resulted in a term extension from 20 to 30 years.

Surface Water – Shahram Kharaghani reported on the City's continued efforts on the Enhanced Watershed Management Plans and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program that are due in June 2014. A workshop designed to receive stakeholder input is being scheduled for March 2014.

Surface Water – Grace Chan reported that at this time mandatory rationing is not anticipated despite the declaration of a drought emergency. In response to this situation, the Metropolitan Water District is requesting voluntary conservation. Grace also shared that Southern California is being recognized by the State for their water conservation efforts.

Groundwater – Tony Zampiello discussed current basin levels and reported that 30,000 acre-feet has been pre-purchased by the San Gabriel Basin and efforts are underway to pre-purchase additional supply this spring. Tony also talked about Raymond Basin's 30% voluntary reduction.

5. IRWM PLAN UPDATE

Russ Bryden reported that immediate adoption of the IRWM Plan is not necessary at this time. An amendment is being developed with DWR to allow grant closeout without a fully adopted Plan. The final draft plan has been submitted to DWR for review. Leadership Committee members are to proceed with the adoption process at the conclusion of DWR's review process and upon receipt of final approval. DWR's review process is anticipated to last at least 60 days.

6. PROPOSITION 84 IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS – Russ Bryden provided the following updates:

- Round 1 – Grant administration and invoicing process is underway but new standards issued by DWR midway through the process caused additional delays. Russ acknowledged that among the Local Project Sponsors, Covina Irrigating Company has been most negatively impacted by this delay. Russ assured this LPS that the District will assist as best as possible in expediting reimbursements.
- Round 2 – Final grant awards are not released by DWR yet.
- Round 3 – Official schedule has not been released by DWR yet but subregions are starting to prepare for this grant solicitation. It is anticipated that a greater emphasis will be put on "drought-buster" projects during this funding cycle.

7. DAC OUTREACH EVALUATION STUDY

Mike Antos, Council for Watershed Health did a presentation on the Disadvantaged Community Outreach Evaluation Study that was funded in part by The GLAC IRWM group, DWR and USACE. Mike described the context, process and results of this project that was meant to develop tools for improved DAC engagement and project identification. A copy of the presentation is attached. The final report of the study is available online.

8. DAC ITEMS

Maria Elena Kennedy introduced the new DAC outreach coordinator, Enrique Huerta, who will be assisting in community engagement. Marybeth Vergara indicated that the DAC committee intends to collaborate with the Council for Watershed Health in DAC project identification and engagement efforts.

9. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

E.J. Caldwell reported that this month's Legislative Committee discussions focused on the 2014 Water Bond and Water Action Plans. A summary was distributed to the group.

10. DROUGHT DECLARATION

Massood Eftekhari led the discussion on the recent drought declaration, its significance to current efforts and what the Region is doing in response. Massood offered to share with the group a white paper that the District has prepared internally. Dan Sulzer shared that the USACE is looking for local sponsors that can assist in the USACE's efforts. Other members also provided some information on local efforts that may have an impact on the drought situation.

It was agreed that the situation provides an opportunity to focus on IRWM efforts and highlight the Region's accomplishments. A recommendation was made to form a subcommittee that can start developing policies and strategies to combat drought and address the crisis. The subregions will also be tasked with having a similar discussion to collect insights on the appropriate direction or plan of action. The Region will continue its efforts to conserve and diversify supplies.

Russ Bryden will be coordinating with the volunteers to schedule a conference call within the next two weeks.

11. FUTURE AGENDA/OTHER ITEMS

The following topics were recommended as future agenda items:

- Round 3 Project Prioritization
- Operating Guidelines

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12. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2014 at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters.